

The United States should have whispered into Israel's ear, the message being: "The carnage has to cease. We'll find a better way."

Instead, the Bush crowd nodded in acquiescence as Israel plowed headlong into a situation that can't possibly end any other way than badly. Lebanon, which had been one of the few bright spots in the Middle East, is now a mess. Even if Hezbollah is brought to its knees, the circumstances will ensure that there will be legions of newly radicalized young men anxious to take up arms and step into the vacuum.

(When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, its strongest resistance enemy was the Palestinian guerrilla group Fatah. When it withdrew 18 years later, it left behind a stronger, more extreme guerrilla movement in Hezbollah, a force that didn't exist at the time of the invasion.)

Joseph Cirincione, an expert on national security matters (and a supporter of Israel) at the Center for American Progress in Washington, said last week: "There is no question that Hezbollah provoked this current crisis, and that it was right for Israel to respond, even if that meant crossing the Lebanon border to strike back at those who had attacked it. But this operation has gone too far. It's striking back at those who had nothing to do with Hezbollah."

As a true friend of Israel, the task of the United States is to work as strenuously as possible to find real solutions to Israel's security. The first step in that process, as far as the current crisis is concerned, would logically have been to try and broker a cease-fire.

But the compulsive muscle-flexers in the Bush crowd were contemptuous of that idea. Always hot for war, and astonishingly indifferent to its consequences, they egged Israel on.

That was not the behavior of a friend.

Neither Israel nor the United States can kill enough Muslims to win the struggle against terror. What Israel needs are stable, moderate governments in the region. (This is one of the reasons why it made no sense to cripple the Lebanese government.) What the United States needs is as much serious diplomatic engagement on all fronts as possible; and an end to the Bush administration's insane addiction to war—ever more war—as the answer to the world's ills.

The U.S. especially needs to be deeply involved in the effort to establish peace between Israel and its neighbors.

There is no grand solution to the centuries-old problems of the Middle East. As with the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union, you try to keep things as cool as possible, step by step, sometimes agonizing step. It may not be pretty, and it will surely be frustrating. But if the conflict, however aggravating, can be kept cold, as opposed to hot, you're ahead of the game.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to pay tribute to my predecessor here in Congress, Tom Manton. In politics, as in life, you can only achieve greatness by building on the path that those before you have taken.

Tom was a mentor to me, a friend, a confidante. Tom Manton truly loved serving here in this institution, with his friends on both sides of the aisle. I will truly miss his friendship, and our city and our State of New York will miss his leadership.

My condolences go out to his wife, Diane, and to all his children and his grandchildren on the passing of their husband, their father and their grandfather.

Tom Manton was born in New York City in 1932. He was the son of a working class Irish immigrant. His father actually worked here on Capitol Hill as a plasterer, laying plaster in the Longworth Building. He often talked about that historical note. He would often say only in America can a son of someone who built the halls of Congress one day serve in the halls of Congress.

Tom Manton went on to law school at the St. John's University where he got his law degree, but before that, he was a police officer, a computer salesman, and after law school was elected to the New York City Council in 1969, representing what are still parts of today the 7th congressional district that I have the honor of serving in.

In 1986, after the death of Donald Manes, Tom Manton stepped up and filled the role as chair of the County of Queens Democratic Party. When our party in Queens was at its lowest ebb, Tom Manton took the reins of control and brought back the image of Democrats in Queens County and in New York City and New York State. He instilled discipline from time to time, which is part of the role of a county leader, but he worked to make the party the preeminent political party, not only of New York City and New York State, but many would argue our Nation today.

Presidential candidates, from Mike Dukakis and Dick Gephardt and Fritz Mondale and Bob Kerry, Bill Clinton, and JOHN KERRY, all sought his support and the support of Queens Democrats to help propel them to higher office and, in the instance of Bill Clinton, successfully helping to make him President of the United States.

But Tom has helped elected officials at every level achieve their goals, the first of firsts in many respects: the

first Indian political leader, under his tutelage; the first Bangladeshi American political leader, under his tutelage; the first Latino from Queens to the New York State assembly; the first openly gay political leader; the first woman as Borough president; and the first African American woman as Borough president; and the list goes on and on.

Tom always had the bug for Congress and ran in 1972 against an incumbent, James Delaney. He lost that election, but he also ran again in 1978 against Geraldine Ferraro. Once again, he lost, but he did not let that keep him down. When Geraldine Ferraro was tapped by Walter Mondale to run as his running mate in 1984, Tom took the opportunity to run for and finally win a seat in Congress.

In Congress, he was an inside political player who earned a seat on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. He fought tenaciously through this committee for the interests of New York, bringing countless jobs and Federal resources to his district.

One of his major accomplishments was the establishment of the Ad-Hoc Committee of Irish Affairs which he used as a forum to represent one of the largest communities of Irish immigrants in the United States.

As co-chair of this committee, he worked closely with President Clinton to urge him to grant a visa to Gerry Adams, and this began the peace process that led to the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland.

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As a friend and a mentor, I have to say, in addition to being a caring husband, grandfather, and father, Tom was a dear friend to many. In 1984, my uncle, Walter Crowley, ran against Tom Manton in that open primary seat that I spoke of earlier. I worked very hard for my Uncle Walter in that campaign, and I remember vividly the heartbreaking loss my Uncle endured and that I felt myself. Tom Manton was an unspoken name in our household. It was a bad word. You couldn't say that name.

But not long after that, Tom Manton tapped me on the shoulder at the County Cork Association dance on Greenpoint Avenue, and he said to me, how would you like to be the next assemblyman from the 30th assembly district? Why don't you think about getting in that primary. And I did. I won a subway primary, with his support and under his tutelage. In 1998, I was proud to succeed him here in Congress as the Congressman from the Seventh Congressional District.

I know how proud Tom was to serve in this Congress, and I know how proud I am of the work that he did here, and I am proud to succeed him here in Congress to this day. There is not a day that I am not grateful for the opportunities that Tom Manton created for me and for my life.

To Tom's wife, Diane; to his four children, Cathy Manton Laurent of

Schenectady, Tom Manton of London, John Manton of Woodside, Queens, and Jeanne of Astoria; and to his four grandchildren, Nicole, Marc, Danielle, and Liam Henry, and incidentally, Liam Henry, Tom would always remind me, is the same name of my son and how it was a great coincidence that he and I would share that as well. It was something that in this last year particularly he would always point out to me, and it brought a chuckle to him and to me as well. I want you all to know that Tom, your granddad, your father, and your husband, is in our thoughts and in our prayers.

But more importantly, Diane, you and your children and your grandchildren are in all the prayers of the Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

I have to say for the record, I loved Tom Manton, and he is not the kind of guy you would say that to. I didn't have to say it to him. He knew it. There was an unspoken language between the two of us. He knew how I felt about him, and I certainly knew how he felt about me. He showed it in so many ways.

I will miss my good friend, my mentor, Tom Manton, as I know his law partners will, as his community will. His legacy will live on in so many people but especially in this Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the Associated Press article regarding Tom Manton's death.

(From *NEWSDAY*, July 23, 2006)

THOMAS MANTON, FORMER CONGRESSMAN  
FROM NEW YORK, DIES

(By Devlin Barrett)

WASHINGTON—Thomas Manton, a former congressman who for years wielded his influence to shape New York City's political landscape, has died. He was 73.

The seven-term congressman died Saturday, said Rep. Joseph Crowley, who took Manton's Queens congressional seat when he retired.

Crowley declined to discuss the cause of death but Michael Reich, the Queens Democratic Party's executive secretary and Manton's spokesman, told the (New York) Daily News that Manton died of an undisclosed and lengthy illness.

Elected 20 years ago to his post as Queens Democratic Party chair, Manton was known as a behind-the-scenes politician who fostered the careers of City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and other local political figures.

When he announced his retirement from Congress in 1998, he successfully hand-picked Crowley, then a state assemblyman, as his successor, and he played a role in the selection of the two most recent City Council speakers.

"He was a great man and a great friend and he'll be terribly missed," Crowley said Sunday. "He's left the Queens Democratic party in a very strong position."

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he had reached out to Manton when he first began considering entering politics.

"He was a classy guy. It's a sad day," said the Republican mayor, a former Democrat. "We really did lose someone who made a difference."

Manton served 15 years on the New York City Council before taking over Geraldine

Ferraro's congressional seat when she ran for vice president in 1984. As a congressman, he had little problem getting re-elected, winning with 87 percent of the vote in 1994.

He said his years as a city councilman made him sensitive to the needs of constituent service and set the tone for his congressional career, which was focused on local concerns and New York City politics.

As the head of the county party, he helped choose the city's leaders and, Crowley said, helped open up the party leadership to minority groups.

"He was a steady rudder of the ship who brought the Queens party back from its lowest ebb. He diversified the leadership of the county, welcoming minority leaders," said Crowley.

Born in 1932 to Irish immigrant parents in Manhattan, Manton carved a colorful career path, serving as a New York City police officer, an IBM salesman and a flight navigator for the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked as a lawyer for decades, reportedly retiring just months before his death.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday the House of Representatives lost one of its own and New York City lost a great civil servant when Congressman Thomas J. Manton died at the age of 73.

Mr. Manton embodied the American dream and his story is one of integrity, hard work and dedication to community service.

The most important lesson we learn from our former colleague is that you don't have to be born into a political or influential family, nor do you have to have lots of money to succeed in politics. Mr. Manton's formula for success was honesty and coalition building.

His parents, Thomas Manton and Margaret Manton emigrated from Ireland in search of a better life. On November 3, 1932, they had their first and only son, Thomas J. Manton in a Manhattan hospital.

Mr. Manton's father supported the family working as a plasterer and the family moved from Manhattan to the borough of Queens where Mr. Manton lived until he passed away.

Mr. Manton demonstrated his commitment to public service very early on when he served our country as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

Upon returning, he worked his way through law school, serving the city as a police officer with the New York Police Department.

In the same spirit of service he was elected to the New York City Council and served there for 14 years.

In 1984, the voters from the 7th Congressional District chose Mr. Manton, to represent their interests in Washington. He served with distinction on the Commerce Committee and as Co-Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs.

As the son of immigrants, Mr. Manton never forgot what makes this country great. As Chairman of the Queens Democratic Party, he embraced the growing diversity in Queens and recruited candidates of all ethnicities, including from the Asian and Hispanic communities.

Mr. Manton maintained his position as District Leader for the Anoroc Democratic Club in his home district until the day that he died, which further demonstrates his commitment to being accessible to the public and the value he placed on being in touch with the community.

Over 2 million people are lucky enough to call the borough of Queens home. Queens is an exceptional borough largely because of Thomas J. Manton, and we can all only hope

to do what he did—leave the world a better place than we found it.

I, with the entire City of New York, mourn the loss of the honorable and distinguished Congressman Thomas J. Manton and send my heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife Diane, their four children, and four grandchildren.

#### TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSMAN THOMAS J. MANTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I mourn the passing of our distinguished former colleague, the Honorable Thomas J. Manton. Tom was a great public servant, a great New Yorker, and a great American. Indeed, Tom Manton was the personification of the American Dream.

The son of immigrants from the Irish countryside, Tom Manton was born and raised a New Yorker. His father was a plasterer, and Tom loved to tell the story of how proud his father was of his election to Congress; and how when he came to celebrate that election, they were in the Longworth Building, and his father told him that he had helped build that building in which Tom served.

After serving with honor and distinction in the United States Marine Corps, Tom put himself through college and law school while serving proudly in the New York City Police Department. He was recognized by his community in western Queens for his outstanding leadership abilities when his neighbors chose him to represent them on the New York City Council from 1970 to 1984.

I was proud to call myself a colleague and friend of Tom Manton. We served together on the New York City Council, and I served with him on the Housing Committee, which he chaired. I will never forget one day he came in late to a meeting. He was never late. But that night he had stayed up all night counting votes that sent him to Congress.

It was in that legislative body that I learned to appreciate his quiet, firm, steady powers of persuasion and conciliation, the true hallmarks of leadership in a democratic society. I was privileged as well to call Tom Manton a colleague in the halls of the United States Congress. No Member of this House was ever more dedicated to serving the needs of his constituents.

Tom played a crucial role in helping forge the peace that prevails in Ireland today through his patient and persistent efforts to bring peace to that once troubled land. He served as co-chair of the bipartisan Irish Caucus, on which I served. And he was selected to be the Grand Marshal of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade. He was very proud of that and kept in his office a big picture of that event.

But he also embraced Tip O'Neill's maxim that all politics is local, and he